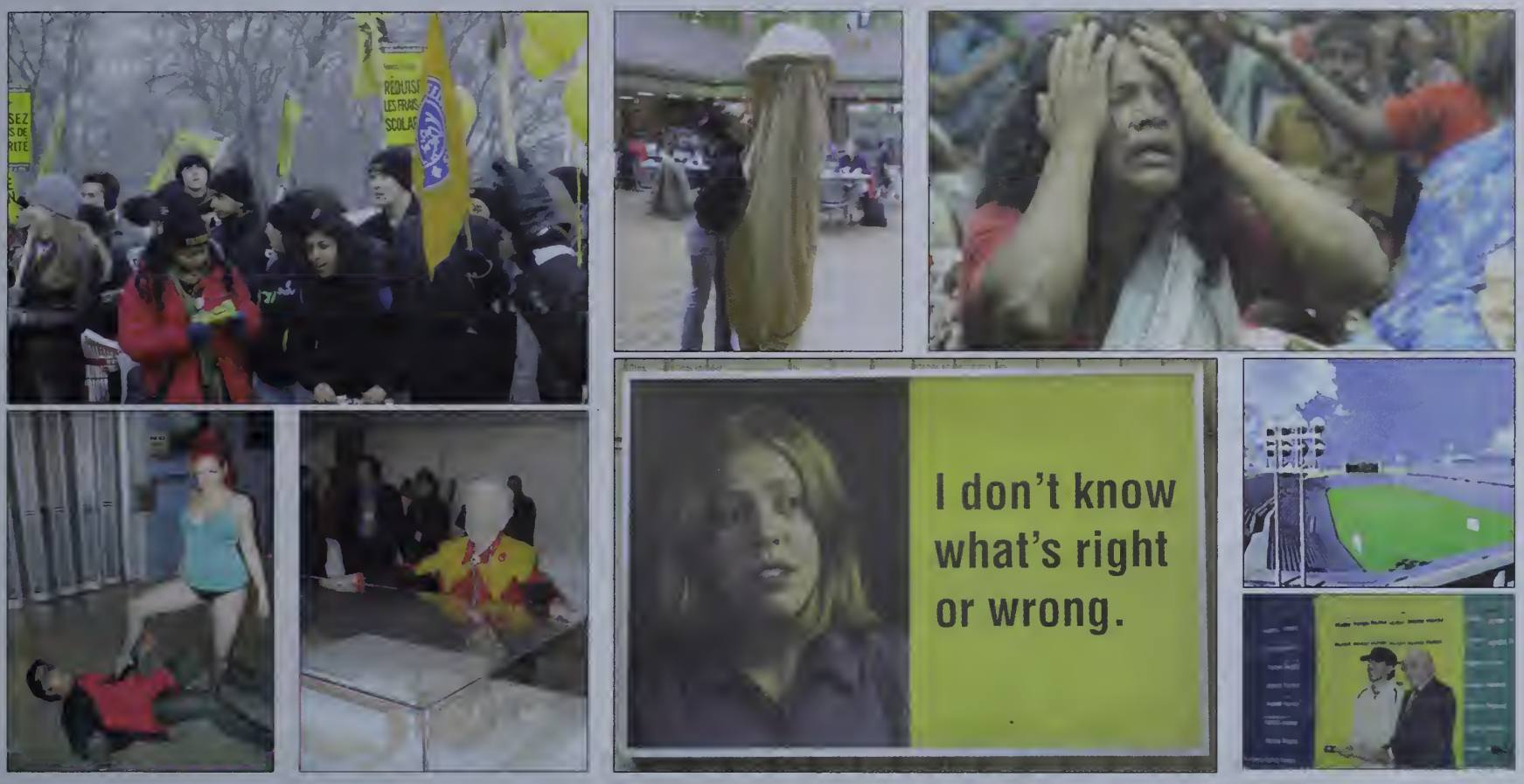
The Voice of the University of Toronto at Mississauga

THE MEDIUM

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 26 APRIL 4, 2005

Last Issue of 2004/05!!!

A year in review: UTM 2004 - 2005



(Clockwise from top left) Students protest a tuition increase in February at Queen's Park, a student licks a giant penis on World AIDS Day, a woman expresses grief over the loss of her family in the tsunamis affecting East Asia on Boxing Day, a designer's conception of the Varsity Stadium that was never to be, UTMAC President Danial Raza poses with administration at the official wall breaking ceremony of the Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Centre, 'WTF?' - the artwork that prompted outrage, Her Worship Mayor Hazel McCallion at the groundbreaking ceremony of the UTM building to be built in her name, and last but most certainly least, Vibe Promotions Director Sunny Pathak, recently caught in a storm of controversy, gets stomped on by Poison Ivy at Halloween Pub.

The results are in: Carroll, Abrahim, & Awan to lead ECSU

BDP employee wins Presidency

BY JULIE TYIOS

Results were announced for the Erindale College Student Union (ECSU) elections late last week following a ballot count on Friday night. A record setting 1076 ballots were cast in total.

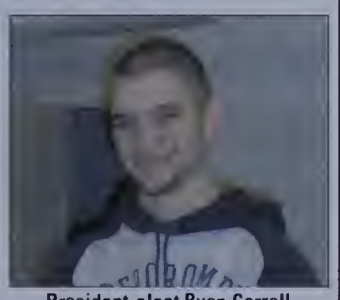
Surprise was expressed over the win of underdog Ryan Carroll as ECSU President over favoured opponent Amer Meknas, who was the subject of a smear campaign against him prior to the opening of the polls. Carroll, a Blind Duck Pub employee, received 625 votes, winning over Meknas by 227.

Shawn Abrahim was elected to the position of ECSU Vice-President Finance, over opponent Gabriel Didiano. Abrahim won by 50 votes, 540-490. Current ECSU Special Projects Director Hena Awan won the position of Vice-President Administration over Miron Lulic by 179 votes, 593-414.

Michelle Gabourie won the position of Special Projects Director, over first-year student Rabaab Namazie. The vote count was 571-429, differentiated by 142 votes.

Acclaimed to the position of Clubs Commissioner was Matt Arduini, and also acclaimed were Warren Wai to Services Coordinator and Igor Mazic to Advertising Director.

VP Admin-elect Hena Awan



President-elect Ryan Carroll

"I would like to think that through these elections, students proved that they are capable of looking at the issues rather than allowing race or ethnicity to be the sole determining factors of who they voted for," remarked Carroll on pre-election controversy. "I want to congratulate Amer on a campaign well fought and that he will continue to do great things for UTM next year. I am very anxious to take office in May because I will have an extremely motivated and dedicated council to work with

ECSU continued on page 3

Positive Chalk

photo/Julie Tyios

Students armed with multi-coloured chalk formed a party outside of McLuhan court residences last Wednesday night to create a rainbow mural in response to recent homophobic hate graffiti in Erindale Hall.

INSIDE...

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MONDAY MOVIE MADNESS

THIS MONDAY
April 4th - The LAST DAY!
12 - Dodgeball
2 - Mean Girls
4 - Saw
6 - The Incredibles

THE DETAILS
STUDENT CENTRE PRESENTATION ROOM
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WWW.UTM.UTORONTO.CA/SCEVENTS
QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? REQUESTS?
E-MAIL US AT MONDAY_MOVIES@HOTMAIL.COM

BikeShare
Now that Spring is finally here, why not borrow a bike from the BikeShare program?
See the InfoBooth or the SCEvents office for details.

SC EVENTS

Goodbye, John Paul II

Catholics around the world mourn Saturday passing of 84-year old pontiff

By Julie Tyios

Catholics around the world held their breath on Friday night as it was announced that the spiritual leader of the Catholic religion, Pope John Paul II, was in the last hours of his life.

Thousands of devout Catholics crowded into Vatican Square on Friday and Saturday, praying and waiting in anticipation for news on the Pope's condition. He had made his last public appearance on the Tuesday before his death from the window of his apartment in the Vatican, during which he expressed frustration at not being able to speak to the crowd by banging on the lectern placed in front of him. An announcement was made at 2:30 p.m., Saturday afternoon, that his life had ended after his body succumbed to a long-term illness.

The 84-year old pontiff had suffered numerous ailments at the beginning of their year for which he was hospitalized, and had never fully recovered from. At the time of his death, Pope John Paul II was suffering from a high fever, septic shock, and cardiocirculatory collapse brought on by a urinary tract infection, according to the Vatican. The pontiff also suffered from a crippled hip and knees and also later-stage Parkinson's disease. Despite this, he still spent many of his last days traveling around the world and spreading the message of peace.

Pope John Paul II, born in Poland in 1920 as Karol Wojtyla, was renowned for his work with various world and spiritual leaders including former and current Presidents George Bush, and the Dalai Lama on behalf of peace efforts. He was chosen for the position in 1978 at the age of 58, and survived an assassination attempt on his life in 1982.

Both U.S. President George W. Bush and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan met the Pope on several occasions and were distraught over his death.

"The Catholic Church has lost its shepherd," said Bush in a statement to reporters. "The world has lost a champion of human freedom, and a good and faithful servant of God has been called home. We will always remember the humble, wise and fearless priest who became one of history's great moral leaders."

photo/msnbc.com

The Pope is also credited with providing the inspiration to end communism peacefully in Eastern Europe.

It is expected that over 2 million people will travel to the Vatican this week to pay homage to the pontiff as his body lies at Sala Bologna at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, until his funeral in four to six days. Thousands had already gathered in the square on Sunday morning to hear the first of nine masses that will mark John Paul II's death.

"We entrust with confidence to the risen Christ, Lord of life and history, our beloved John Paul II who for 27 years guided the universal church as the successor of Peter," said the Mass's celebrant, Cardinal Angelo Sodano.

In his hometown of Wadowice, Poland, bells tolled on the main street for a half hour following the announcement of his death.

The First General Congregation of Cardinals is to meet on Monday morning to discuss the plans of the funeral of John Paul II, to decide if he should be buried underneath St. Peter's Basilica or in his hometown. Within 20 days of the death of the Pope, a successor will be chosen by a congregation of Catholic Cardinals from around the world.

photo/Gianni Giansanti

Campus Police Reports

March 25th - March 31st, 2005

March 28th, 2005 @ 08:50 a.m.
Trespassing

University Police charged two drivers for unauthorized use of the construction access road.

March 28th, 2005 @ 1:30 p.m.
Vehicles Towed

Two vehicles were towed off campus, for excessive parking infractions received on both vehicles.

March 28th, 2005 @ 09:50 a.m.
Motor Vehicle Accident

A student reports that her vehicle had been struck in Lot #2, while it had been parked there. A Self-Reporting Collision form was completed.

March 28th, 2005 @ 11:50 p.m.
Graffiti

University Police were contacted in regards to graffiti that was written on a wall located in the lobby of a UTM Residence. The graffiti was covered and arrangements were made to remove it.

March 28th, 2005 @ 1:40 p.m.
Harassment

A student reported being harassed by another student. University Police and Peel Regional Police are assisting the woman and charges against the male person are pending.

March 29th, 2005 @ 10:34 a.m.
Trespassing

University Police charged a driver for unauthorized use of the construction road.

March 29th, 2005 @ 11:50 a.m.
Trespassing

University Police charged a driver for unauthorized use of the construction road.

March 29th, 2005 @ 12:40 p.m.
Motor Vehicle Accident

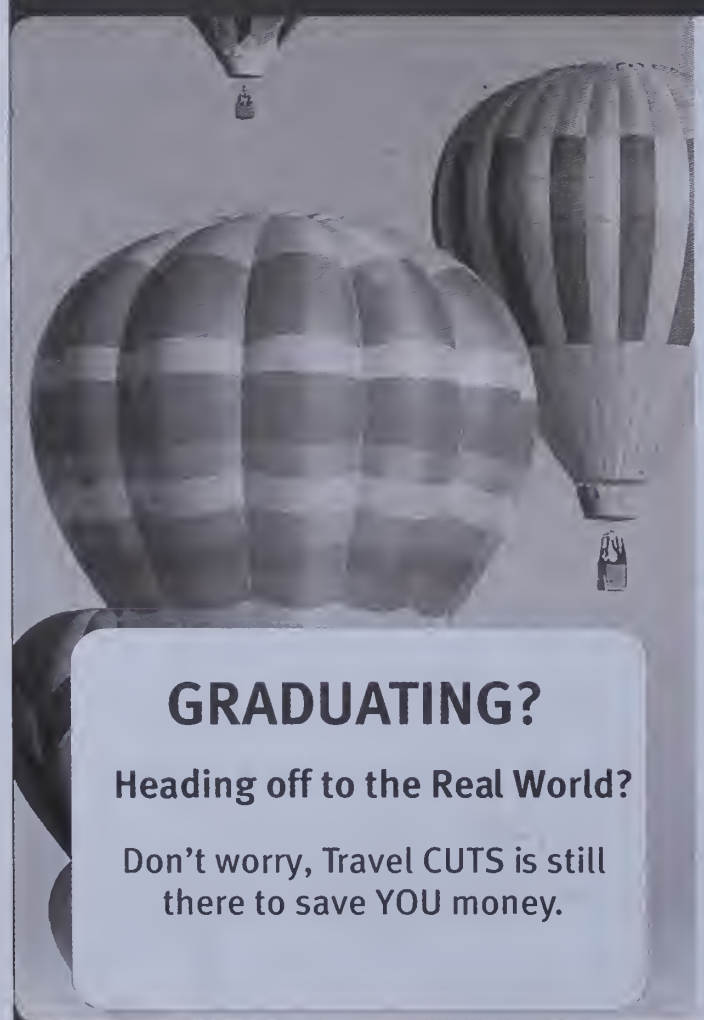
A minor motor vehicle accident occurred on the Inner Circle Road. Neither driver reported any damage to their respective vehicles.

The Medium **would like to thank everyone who has contributed to us in the 2004-05 school year.**

We wish you good luck on your exams and a safe and happy summer!

www.mediumonline.ca

ESCAPE!



FLIGHTS

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PARIS	from $499 ROUND TRIP	FLY INTO LONDON, AND HOME FROM MADRID	from $574 ROUND TRIP
AMSTERDAM/MUNICH/BERLIN	from $599 ROUND TRIP	FLY INTO LONDON, AND HOME FROM ATHENS	from $614 ROUND TRIP
ROME/MILAN	from $599 ROUND TRIP		
PRAGUE	from $599 ROUND TRIP	BANKOK/SEOUL	from $1098 ROUND TRIP
MADRID/BARCELONA	from $669 ROUND TRIP	SYDNEY	from $1099 ROUND TRIP
ATHENS	from $769 ROUND TRIP		
TEL AVIV	from $899 ROUND TRIP	AUCKLAND	from $1299 ROUND TRIP

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SAC plans to make bids to control APUS, GSU, in share buy-out

'One St. George' would unite all student councils under SAC

BY JULIE TYIOS

On March 31, the Students' Administrative Council (SAC) released a statement that disclosed their intentions to buy out the Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students (APUS) and the Graduate Students' Union (GSU), following a vote of SAC executives which passed the motion with an overwhelming majority.

This is part of SAC's new initiative called the 'One St. George' campaign, in which SAC plans to buy shares in each back from all students at a premium price; in order that they may unite all three student unions solely under SAC control. According to Lisa Aldridge, SAC VP operations, if each member of GSU and APUS was offered remuneration for their shares, then under the Canada Corporations Act, SAC would only need 50% plus one share to technically control the student union.

"Since both APUS and GSU are incorporated, each member holds one share. . . . We plan to offer a 25% premium over and above what they paid for their membership to encourage them to sell to us," said Aldridge.

> "We believe that students on this campus need to be identified under one student union . . . It would definitely make it easier to ensure student solidarity if students were represented by one body."
>
> -Outgoing SAC President Rini Ghosh

"We believe that students on this campus need to be identified under one student union," said outgoing SAC President Rini Ghosh. "It would definitely make it easier to ensure student solidarity if students were represented by one body."

"This would help us push through projects like the Student Centre which have been holed up by bureaucratic inefficiencies such as getting all three student unions to agree," said VP University Affairs Howard Tam. "By uniting the three bodies I think that all students would benefit- and we'd save a lot from the duplication of services."

"It's obvious that the executives of APUS and GSU would not agree to a merger. They would be in effect losing their jobs," noted SAC VP UTM Moneeza Ahmed. "So we figured that if we took it to their membership and offered them up-front cash for more than what they paid for their share, they would be happy to sell it to us."

Plans for a similar merge of student governments might happen sometime in the future at the UTM campus as well if the St. George merger goes well.

A mailing will be sent out to 11,000 St. George graduate students and 6,000 part-time students next month.

Mayor honours UTM leaders for BikeShare initiatives on campus

Iwaniw, Nicols, win Mississauga Cycling Advisory Committee award

BY JULIE TYIOS

On March 30, 2005, two UTM leaders were granted Phil Green Recognition awards by Her Worship Mayor Hazel McCallion and Mr. Phil Green on behalf of their work for the BikeShare program at UTM.

Graduate and UTM Environmental Affairs Officer Aubrey Iwaniw and Student Centre Events Coordinator Jason Nicols were the recipients of the awards, chosen by the Mississauga Cycling Advisory Committee on behalf of their efforts that promoted cycling and other forms of sustainable transportation at the UTM campus this past year.

The BikeShare program was established on campus last year by Iwaniw and Nicols, who bought and fixed up old bikes and brought more bike racks to campus to encourage students to bike rather than drive or bus to nearby locations off-campus. The bikes are available on a 24-hour loan basis, once a student registers themselves in the program at the Student Centre Infobooth. It promotes both a healthy lifestyle, the reduction of harmful emissions and less traffic congestion on campus.

The award was created in 2003 in honour of Phil Green, who has done much work around the city with the Mississauga Cycling Advisory Committee that he helped to create in 1994. Green also helped map out and create over 500 kilometers of bike trails around Mississauga.

photo/courtesy of Jay Nicols

ECSU set for '05-'06

Continued from front

and Erindale will finally start to see some drastic and needed changes across campus. I can't wait to see what ECSU can do next year as a council and I can promise the students an amazing year."

Carroll promised to make necessary updates and changes to ECSU's bylaws and constitution, untouched since 1997, and also informed students that, despite recent talks about the subject, he would not consider merging ECSU with the Students' Administrative Council (SAC) as a unified student government body to tackle issues involving students together.

"I believe we need two student governments, not one, to properly reflect the students' voice," he stated at the ECSU All-Candidates Forum, held last week.

The plan to unite the two councils was part of the platform brought forth by his opponent, Meknas. He clarified to The Medium prior to the elections that his vision of 'OneUTM' was not to dissolve both councils, but just to unify them in ideas and discussion.

Also included on the election ballots were referendums involving student levies for a campus emergency response team and ECSU incidental fees. The request for a 20-cent per semester levy for the emergency response team passed, while the request for a 1% increase to ECSU incidental fees, in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for Canada, did not. The final vote count on that issue was 410 in favour, and 575 opposed to it.

ECSU's incidental fees have not been increased since 1997 and currently stand at a cost of $12.13 per session for full-time students.

¡Muchas gracias!

It's been a long year of deadlines and Starbucks coffee, but I made it through my tenure as news editor; an impossible feat without the help of many I would like to thank.

First off, all of the student leaders who let me pester them relentlessly, especially Sean from ECSU who lives and breathes UTM and who gave me news and fast food.

Secondly, I want to thank all my writers, including my new co-worker Daniel, Yvette, Dorothy, Saira, Karen, Maria-Elena, Adil, Amanda and Maryangel, and anyone else who has ever submitted anything.

Also, Nadeem, Johanna and Andrea for the articles and edit jobs, and Adrian for all the sarcastic crap I had to put up with. Poopy in a bucket.

Thanks also to my mom and the bunny for helping me get my 'bare' ass in gear.

And thanks to everyone who put up with the snake I brought to live in the office. Awwww, muffin!

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Editorial

THE MEDIUM

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Medium Editorial Election Results

Congratulations to all editorial board winners.

Editor-in-Chief: *Julie Tyios*
News Editor: *Daniel Filipe Martins* | Features Editor: *Lorna Sloukji*
Arts & Entertainment Editor: *Sean Fitzgerald* | Sports Editor: *Neil Anthony Meneses*
Photography Editor: *Denyse Gibson* | Composite Editor: *Norman Valdez*

On behalf of all the outgoing *Medium* editors, we wish you the best of luck in managing *The Medium* next year. Thank you to all editorial board applications. *The Medium* welcomes you to continue contributing to the paper and encourages all applicants to reapply next year.

Lessons Learned

EDITORIAL

This is the end, my only friend, the end. Those are Jim Morrison's words, not mine, but they seem appropriate. Half a decade ago I was a cocky teenager opening an acceptance letter from the U of T. About 43,800 hours later, I'm sitting in a Student Centre office writing my last words to Erindale College. Five years on, at or close by the UTM campus has been a learning experience. Much as I like to deny it, my time at the U of T at M has helped me to grow and develop as a person.

This being my last editorial, the pressure is on to tie up all the loose ends with clarity and depth. A good ending always strikes a delicate balance between closing most matters and leaving just enough others open ended. End game has never been my strong point, though, so I'll just do what I can.

As I said, my time at UTM has been an experience in learning. The vast majority of that learning took place outside the classroom. I've never been very good at going to class. In my first year, a don told a group of us that if we divided our tuition fees by the number of lectures we had each year, each lecture was worth about twenty dollars. For every class you skip, he warned, you'll be throwing twenty bucks down the drain. For my part, I've always been happy to throw away that twenty bucks in favour of other pursuits. Such pursuits varied widely, but almost always involved others. I have learned much more from my friends, peers, and co-workers than I have from attending lectures. My professors taught me much as well, but most of that happened while speaking with them outside of the classroom.

Three years of living on residence taught me many things about domestic idiosyncrasies. Each of us is a product of our home environment, and when you thrust four different people derived from four different home environments together into one house, the results often border on chaos. Moreso than any diversity seminar, awareness event or positive space poster ever could, living with different people taught me to tolerate different people. Even without considering the usual divides of race, religion, skin colour, ethnicity, sexual preferences and such, humanity is incredibly and wonderfully diverse. This is a fact that should always be celebrated.

As I sign off this post, there are innumerable people to thank, and just as many reasons to thank them. I cannot possibly extend my words of appreciation to everyone who warrants them, but I'd like to briefly mention a few. The acknolwedgements that follow are in the order I think of them, not in order of importance.

Firstly, I'd like to thank my staff for producing as solid a 26 issues as there ever has been: Julie, Johanna, Andrea, Romano, Mehraan, Nadeem, Mike, and Denyse. Each of you have invested so much of your time and talent into this publication, I know your experience here will pay dividends well into the future. Thank you to Mark Overton and Jason Nicols for being my sources on the street. Thanks also to SAC, ECSU, the U of T and all the rest who gave me material to fill this column. Thank you to my supporters for their encouraging words and my critics for never letting me get carried away. Thank you to anyone who ever took the time to read my words as they appear here. Thank you to all the students in my tutorial this semester; I may be the teacher and you the students, but I feel you have taught me as much as I have you, perhaps more.

My brothers in Phi Gamma Delta deserve special mention. There are too many of you to mention by name. As an individual, I am grateful to each of you for times had, laughs shared, and troubles overcome. As an only child, I am indebted to all of you for teaching me how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. Not for college days alone, my friends. Lastly, I want to thank Pennylane; in such a brief amount of time you have taught me so much about the hardest subject I've ever had to study: myself.

In the grad message of my high school yearbook I wrote "redsaid'getbusylivingorgetbusydying'damnright...realworldhereicome." I'm not sure if what I feel right now is deja vu or wishful nostalgia, but the feeling is definitely familiar.

The undergraduate chapter of my life is finished, and a new chapter awaits. For now, I'm going to bookmark this page and take a break from reading. This summer I will work, party, and travel. When the time comes, I will once again pick up the book that is my life and begin right where I left off.

To all of you reading this, I wish the best of health and the best of luck in finishing your tenure at UTM. It has been my pleasure writing to you.

There is no next time...

Adrian Barek

THE MEDIUM is published weekly by Medium II Publications; a non-profit, incorporated student organization. The opinions expressed within are those of the writers and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of Medium II Publications. THE MEDIUM's mandate includes informing students of local and national concerns, and giving Erindale College students an opportunity to practice journalism.

Rez student highlights opportunities

re: "Student leader confirms rez bureaucracy" *(Vol. 31, Iss. 25)*

Dear Miron Lulic,

I am a residence student, which, I may suggest, is already a better start than that of your letter. I would like to begin by recognizing the value of an outside perspective, which you have so generously offered residence. Objectivity is essential for the development of an organization, especially when it is delivered in the form of constructive criticism from an educated source. As a student who has lived in residence for three years and has taken advantage of the remarkable opportunities that it has to offer, I feel repulsed by the ignorance of your letter. Your letter as well as past letters from Adrian Barek and Justin Stoller, indicate to me that you know nothing about influential student development theories, and the role they play in university transition and the first year experience. You must not realize that there exists an enormous collection of research on higher education that motivates the actions of the Residence Life program at UTM, enabling them to provide an environment for students that foster such things as independence, identity development, and academic success. It might surprise you to learn that the programming objective of the Residence Life Staff is to satisfy needs that a first year student may not realize are integral to their development. Or maybe it would be more surprising to learn that policies, such as the Alcohol/Party Policy and Guest Policy, are created by residence students. How about the fact that a Community Standards Board of student representatives is responsible for delivering the vast majority of punitive decisions? It suffices to say that the quality of life in residence is largely determined by the autonomous actions of students. And with regards to house checks, how dare administration ask us to clean our living spaces, teaching us to respect the communal environment that we share with three other roommates. Shame on you, residence.

You cannot possibly say that the residence administration does not 'trust' students, when you take into consideration the many empowering opportunities that they offer them; the aforementioned being only a few examples. In fact, your whole paragraph on trust seems counterintuitive to me, but then again as a student who lives off-campus you don't have the subjective view that can validate such claims, let alone produce them.

In Chris McGrath's letter, he attempted to illustrate the positive initiatives that have occurred in residence. Call him an optimist, I am sure he won't mind. I can see how you find this unsettling, as your affinity for the negative is very clear in your tone. Maybe next time you can do your homework, and offer some suggestions as to how residence can start making the imminent changes you say they need. Why don't you start with "Student Development in College: Theory, Research, and Practice" by Evans, Forney and Guido-DiBrito, you may find it an enlightening read. Or better yet, why don't you leave the student development piece to residence professionals, it's what they do best.

Good luck in your campaign for candidacy Mr. Lulic, you have just lost one vote.

Nic Weststrate

Ex-Don blows the whistle on rez life

re: "Residence Director refutes notion of 'gestapo babysitting service" *(Vol. 31, Iss. 24)*

I am writing in regards to Chris McGrath's defence of residence being characterized as a "Gestapo baby-sitting service." I found Mr. McGrath's article vapid and insulting to the intelligence of residence students. Instead of addressing the concerns raised by Adrian Barek's editorial, he merely listed some things residence has done. In each case he left out pertinent facts that paint a very different picture of what is occurring on residence.

He sites the construction of Phase 8 as an example of success. Yet why does residence need "424 new beds" when there are empty beds in residence now? Additionally, no residence specific study space has been added besides the "luxury" study space in the dungeon of the laundry rooms. Was it really necessary to close down Colman House this year when construction hasn't even begun? Not only did this deprive us of additional study space, but a place to hold events as well.

He writes that his "investigation" showed that upper year students wanted more peer support. There is a difference between peer support and holding our hands. While it is important for upper year students to have a connection to the rest of the campus, foisting mandatory row meetings and residence programs on upper years who have lives of their own is not only unnecessary, it is intrusive. As a Don last year, with 18 upper year students, all were in disagreement with residence policies. I don't think this is just a coincidence.

He has also claimed to have "tripled" student's opportunities to get involved on campus. He then sites the arts festival and MINGA trip as examples. The entire MINGA project, while important and good, has been mismanaged from the start. I find the fundraising tactics to be pitiful. First our row was given an enormous water jug. We were told that the first row to fill the jug would get a catered meal…whoopdeedoo. Is this really a strategic way of raising funds?

Don't get me wrong, I am all for supporting charity, but this program has been ill-explained and bungled from the start. Other charities seem more worthy to me, such as the United Way, Tsunami relief, or our local community. Additionally, Mr. McGrath points to this as an example of a thriving residence. Please let me know how a program which only 25 students can participate in, at great cost to themselves and residence, is allowing students to "get involved in campus life."

The fact of the matter is the residence community is incredibly fractured. I strongly disagree with your remarks, as you have created nothing of what you are so quick to pat yourself on the back for. Furthermore, you claim residence provides students with a place that "promotes mutual respect for human rights and the diversity of the human experience." If this was the case, then why was I taught the lesson last year as a Don to silence my opinions, which I feel are important to residence life? Don't you find it odd that I have to wait until the end of my last year on residence to finally come out and say what I feel? Perhaps you should come up with your own charter of rights and freedoms for residence students.

Finally, Mr. McGrath, you cannot fault the editor for interpreting residence as a "Gestapo babysitting service" because this is what it can seem like. Ultimately, instead of promoting a community where students can get involved, work and play on their own terms, we are forced to get involved in the programs set by residence. The joy of living on my own has been replaced by the spectre of Very Big Brother looming over my shoulder. Frankly, Mr. McGrath, it was appalling that you felt the need to define "Gestapo" for the readers in the letter. You may find it surprising that not all university students are narrowed-minded and ignorant.

All I can say in closing is that my time on residence could not come to an end fast enough. Just because you feel that administration has done a good job and it looks well on paper, doesn't mean the students feel the same way. I'd like to introduce you to one student whose life has been deeply affected and drastically shaped by your policies. I think you have a lot to learn from us:THE STUDENTS!

Michael Hosein

OPINION

Christianity is about loving thy neighbour

re: "Salvation? Not for me thank you" *(Vol. 31, Iss. 24)*

Some of the recent opinions voiced in *The Medium* regarding Christianity have linked Christianity and Western civilization, as if Christianity is Western or as if Western civilization is something that Christians should be concerned about preserving. In my opinion, this is not what Jesus asks of his followers. Christianity did not come out of Western civilization, nor does it depend on Western civilization. However, I do believe Christ calls on Christians to love all people, regardless of race, culture, religion, sexual orientation and so on. This, I believe, is what "love your neighbour as yourself" means.

When asked who qualifies as a neighbour, Jesus replied with the story of the good Samaritan. In this story a Samaritan is presented as a moral example and as a neighbour (i.e. someone to love). In Jesus' days, Samaritans and Jews were enemies, and respectable Jews did not mix with Samaritans. In the story of the good Samaritan, Jesus is speaking against racial barriers. There is no 'us and them.' This extends to other groups within society as well. I believe that this love is not to be condescending or pitying, but rather full of respect and delight in the person who is loved.

I personally fail at this, as does the church, and for this I ask for forgiveness. Sohrab Merchant is right when he says that Christianity as a religion has a poor track record when it comes to showing people love. I want that to change. I personally want to change as well, to remove anything in me that limits who I extend love to. I also believe that it is important for myself to remember that I am an immigrant, and someone who needs and receives acceptance. The early church struggled with how to include gentiles, which is anyone who is not Jewish. I am a gentile, as are many Christians, and I have been accepted by God and by the church. I should now extend acceptance to anyone else. Not just anyone who is like me, or believes what I believe, but to anyone, without qualifications and demands. This, I believe, is part of what God asks of me when he calls me to love my neighbour.

Mari Jørstad

Campus dishonours slain mounties

News to no one should be the tragic end to the lives of four Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers in the line of duty just outside of Edmonton, Alberta, on March 4 this year. Anyone that commutes to campus, especially those who pass South Common Mall, would have noticed Canadian flags everywhere (most obviously the gigantic flag at South Common) flying respectfully at half-mast in memory of the four brave young men who died in the line of duty. However, upon arrival to campus, one would then have noticed UTM's flag flying proudly, full-mast, as though this horrific tragedy had never even happened. How could this be?

Undeniably, there is no other image that rivals the irrepressible symbolism and Canadian pride elicited by an RCMP officer in full traditional uniform. The loss of such a symbol, even a single Mountie, would be a sad day and reason enough to lower the flag.

Our un-lowered flag prompts the question of whether the significance of this event failed to be acknowledged. We did not lose a single Mountie. We tragically lost four young men who served as Mounties for less than five years, an event unparalleled since the Northwest Rebellion of 1885, which ended with a comparable loss of officers in the line of duty.

Surely the powers that be (the Principal's Office) could not have felt lowering the flag was an appropriate response to this event. Well, apparently even if they did, lowering the flag would not have conformed to the UTM Flag Protocol. This protocol states that our flag is to be lowered on days of remembrance and days of national mourning, a protocol that prevents the flag from being lowered upon request, which UTM receives a great deal of. But this event, described as 'unprecedented' by the media and with a nation engaged, should have been an exception.

The U of T is a nationally recognized institution and carries a responsibility to behave in an appropriate manner in front of the eyes of the nation. As owners of a Canadian flag, it is the duty of the campus to enforce the correct flag etiquette for fallen officers. This would have required the flag be lowered to half-mast from the awful morning of March 4 to the day the last was buried, March 12, out of respect for the memory of the lost officers. The inexcusable behaviour of not lowering our Canadian flag to half-mast bordered on insulting to a nation that was in mourning.

In fact, I don't know what is more offensive, the image of laziness superimposed on UTM that had apparently forgotten to lower its flag for the selfless deceased, or the blow our seemingly oblivious flag ensued when I was reminded of the four men it was ignoring each time I passed it.

I simply hope this article reminds the people upstairs that their actions, or lack thereof, ultimately reflect and affect every single student at UTM. I was embarrassed and offended to pass by that flag for 8 whole days, being reminded of our four lost Mounties and our poor oblivious flag flying high.

Editor's Note: *Due to an email glitch, the author's name was lost. I am very sorry to the author that his/her name could not appear with the article, especially considering the importance and relevance of the letter's content. This being the last issue of the year, no credit will be printed in a future issue. I hope the knowledge that your words will reach our readership is sufficient to make up for my blunder in losing your name. Once again, my apologies. - AB*

I'll gladly take salvation

re: "Salvation? Not for me thank you" *(Vol. 31, Iss. 24)*

I also have been rolling my eyes a lot at this argument; however, Sohrab, your ranting has been the hardest to ignore. First, it seems your view of Christianity is very limited. You have the old cliché arguments against Christianity, yet completely ignore all the good that Christians do. Christianity, like everything else in life, is not limited to the Western world (this is not to say that Christians in the Western world don't do good). That, however, isn't even the important thing. You imply that Christianity doesn't promote love for everyone, but what do you have to support that?

People can use good ideologies to do evil, and they can use bad ideologies to do well. You want to truly see what Christianity is about? Look at those who started it. Read about the teachings of Jesus Christ and his disciples. Can you honestly tell me those are bad and immoral teachings? You say that it is a good thing that people no longer go to church. Sure, why not, it's a good thing that people aren't being taught to turn the other cheek. It's good they aren't being taught to love their enemies. It's good they aren't being taught that they must forgive no matter what has been done to them. Being taught that some actions are good, and others are bad isn't dogma, it's morality. It's a sad thing that even though I come from a country where people are sometimes kidnapped, brainwashed, and even killed for being Christians, I have never felt that my religion was being oppressed more in my life than I have in university. I am not exaggerating. At least back home those fundamentalists are open about the fact that they hate me and want me dead.

They believe I am following the wrong God. However, here people act like I'm an idiot for believing in God. Or that it is "nice" that I have some beliefs, yet it is ridiculous to believe in a god. That to me is much more offensive than trying to kill me. University is a place for open and free thought...as long as they aren't traditional or have anything to do with Christianity. It isn't free thought when those thoughts are constantly being ridiculed.

I encourage other Christians to not fall into the propaganda that tried to make you feel stupid for your beliefs. I don't encourage blind faith, but do think hard about what they are saying. You will find your religion holds a lot more merit than they would have you believe.

Rano Daoud

Any time of day parking is a problem

re: "Suck it up commuters" *(Vol. 31, Iss. 24)*

When I read Ms. Edward's opinion piece, I was up in arms. Ms. Edwards stated that she is sick of reading about lack of parking and that the students just need to walk the extra distance. First of all, you have to understand that students do not have a problem with the walking distance. I'm sure that many of the students are aware that the parking lots cannot be made closer to the school, nor do we ask of this. In fact, in comparison to other universities I would say that the distance from the buildings to the parking lots is considerably short. What we are concerned with is that...THERE IS A LACK OF PARKING SPACES PERIOD.

That's great that you have never had a problem finding parking on campus, and you use your vast intelligence to move to the back of the lots to find parking. Wow, how come I've never thought of this? Oh wait! I have and had no luck! Apparently you do not share the same sentiments that many of us students feel. No matter which lot we go to, no matter how far back we drive, there are simply no parking spaces available. Regardless of how early you arrive at school, you still wait for a parking spot. For the price we are paying it would be nice to arrive to campus, at any time of the day, and find a spot instead of replicating mice in a maze where we chase after students leaving the buildings. One must also consider peak times, such as the first few months of school and exam times. Parking is extremely difficult to find because not only are UTM students using the lot, but so are students from other campuses. Furthermore, this is an unsafe environment for drivers. The parking lots are small and confined, creating a situation for accidents to happen.

Every year the price of parking continues to rise and students are still not assured a spot. I'm sorry if I am being incredibly selfish and demand to get my $500 worth that I put into this university. I am a struggling student in financial debt and can barely afford the cost of the pass. As well, public transportation is not an option for some students, including myself. Therefore, I would like a parking spot to be available so I know that I am getting something back from the parking administration. I hope that next year Ms. Edwards, your success for finding a parking spot will continue. However, with the consistent increase of new students I believe that your luck will eventually run out and you too will hold these so called immature views.

Gurpreet Dhillon

More residence issues

re: "Student leader confirms rez bureaucracy" *(Vol. 31, Iss. 25)*

I also sympathize with Lulic's veiw of residence. As a residence student I have had nothing but problems with the uncaring bureaucracy that runs the residences at UTM. Specifically, I was physically threatened and had racist language used against me by a housemate and I complained to campus police, who handed the problem off to Mr. McGrath.

I expected the harasser would be evicted, as per the terms of my occupancy agreement, but the decision-making body attached to residence thought it would be better to simply move the offender to another unit very close to mine, and also found it fit to give her until mid-December to vacate, leaving me without a safe place to stay for almost two months. In addition, I was bogged down by meetings upon meetings with Mr. McGrath, who seemed to think that guest and cleaning policies warranted more attention than threats of violence and racism.

In the end nothing was resolved and I felt bullied by residence and later ignored when Chris McGrath told me personally that I was not to bother residence with my "petty" concerns any more, as they would do nothing to help me. It is this sort of utter incompetence and lack of concern for students' rights and feelings which forces me to reflect on other options for the running of residence at UTM.

Why can't residence be run by a student body that is accountable to residence students, similar to the way Trinity College residence is run? It is hard to imagine a less efficient system than is currently operating and, if nothing else, it would save students a great deal of money as they would no longer be expected to foot the substantial bill for the administrators' salaries, an investment which frankly is lacking return.

Afshan Makhani

Be good leaders

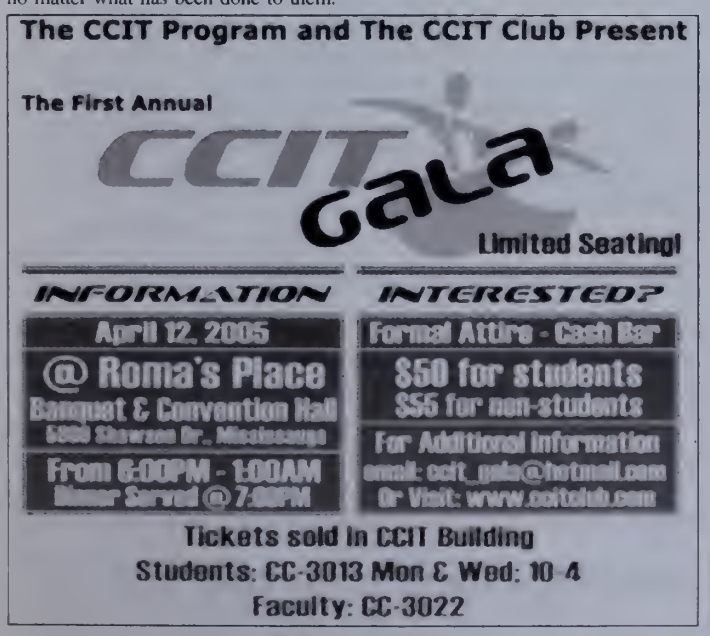
Hi UTM,

With such a huge voting turnout it is clear that students only care when they feel that someone is listening to their issues when someone is taking the time to sit down and listen to their ideas. Therefore, I encourage that the new elected council keep that in mind. During election, many promises were made, and a high level of professionalism and dedication was shown; I hope that such continues next year.

I will be around next year, not as the president of ECSU, or any other club for that matter, but as a student who cares about this campus. I will ask those questions I promised to ask and I will demand hard answers from those in these positions and I encourage everyone to do the same.

For those who voted for me, it is my honor that you put your trust in me. For those who did not vote for me, thank you for voting in these elections. I believe that my opponent and I had similar platforms; we only differed in our priorities. Congrats again for those who won. Remember, positions are not power given to you by the people; positions are responsibilities that you agreed to take on by running. Be good servants for UTM students, and be good leaders.

Amer Meknas



>>> http://www.mediumonline.ca <<<

Features

The Chia Pet

By Khalidan Aderonke Bello

Every Sunday, Sarah's Mom goes to church. Every Sunday, Sarah plays hide 'n' seek with her father.

The front door slams.

"Sarah," her Dad calls. "I'll count to five, then I come to seek. One, two, three, four..."

Sarah always hides behind her toy chest. Her Dad always finds her. Sarah clasps her toffee Kenya doll. She presses her face into the cushiony skin. She blinks. Today, like all Sundays, Sarah hides behind the doll's painted smile.

When would Mommy bring home her birthday cake?

"Five!" Sarah's Dad strolls up to her toy chest. He towers above her. He casts a shadow over her. It reminds Sarah of last Sunday's shadow. The shadow that blanketed her during hide 'n' seek when he dallied with the two buds on her chest. And the area. Down there. Where she peed.

"Today we play an old game!" Sarah's Dad exclaims.

Sarah stares at the floor. Then she hears it.

Zim!

Daddy unzips his pants. "Remember the Chia pet Sarah? Remember the Chia pet game? Come seek Chia. Come seek the pet."

Sarah blinks. Daddy's Chia Pet isn't soft and fuzzy like the one on Mommy's windowsill.

Daddy's Chia Pet drools like a dog, when she pets it. Salt, she doesn't like the taste of salt.

When would Mommy bring home her birthday cake?

Sarah kneels in front of her Dad.

"That's my girl."

The Release

By Lorna Sloukji

Think
Hum
Whisper
Speak

SHOUT

the sounds
the letters
the words
the ideas

Release

language

Email from Sri Lanka

The following email is from my cousin Claudia Ezraeelian who, through altruistic intentions, visited Sri Lanka in hopes to aid victims of the tsunami. If you wish to contact her, please email me. This is her story. It has been considerably shortened to fit.

Dinesh Ramachandran
President, UTM Residence Council
dinesh@utm.utoronto.ca

We arrived in Sri Lanka and went straight to collect the four large boxes of aid we flew out prior to our arrival. We had the necessary documents to collect the boxes, but we were passed between fifteen different officials including the Minister of Defence, Minister of Finance, and director of customs. After ten hours of explaining that these were toys, clothes and basic necessities for tsunami victims collected through fundraising and kind donations, the officials told us that they would NOT give us the boxes. Apparently, the Sri Lankan government used to allow many tsunami aid products through customs, but people started bringing in goods to sell under the name of tsunami aid to avoid taxes. Also the president of Sri Lanka who doesn't like Tamil people, the Sinhala versus Tamil Civil War conundrum, put a ban on the release of all tsunami goods. The eastern province has been neglected medically and financially due to racial and political problems between the Sinhala government and the Tamil people of the east. We were very angry and left to go to Batticoloa, part of the eastern province without our goods. However, we did have with us multivitamins, antibiotics, and various remedies for various physical complaints with us.

Arriving in Batticoloa, after the seven hour journey in above 40 degrees Celsius temperatures, we set about working. For the next nine days we visited countless camps where people, whose houses have been destroyed by the tsunami, are living. These are mostly schools which have been converted into large camps where about 700 hundred people can stay. They all sleep together in dirty conditions with no privacy and no proper bathing facilities. Most of them had no medical attention and are extremely anaemic and mal-nutritioned. 14 year olds are easily mistaken for 6 year olds. Many children were confused, withdrawn, and very sick. The older children, those capable of understanding the situation and what happened, are the most troubled by the events. I met countless people who lost everyone in their family and many children who saw their parents drown. I have heard enough horror stories for ten lives. We went to about six camps and went around tsunami affected areas giving out medication to people who won't go to the camps, but are living in tiny tents on their destroyed lands. Overall, I think we distributed to just under 3000 people.

Due to my friend Reg dying of a stomach hemorrhage, we had to cut our trip short by one week. Before we left we needed to try to collect our boxes from the cargo office once again so that my aunt could distribute them instead of us. After another ten hours, we got our boxes. We paid numerous charges to the Sri Lankan government who have realized they can make money now out of other peoples kindness. In the cargo area where our boxes were held, I saw about 100 boxes sent from all around the world with kids clothes, food, and many more donated goods all stuffed into a room with the President refusing to release the items. We were treated abysmally when we demanded to know why we couldn't get our boxes; threatened to be arrested by the army, almost hit, we were thrown out of rooms and laughed at by all the men in official positions. When you give uneducated people a position of power, it becomes very dangerous for all.

It was an overwhelming experience. People keep telling me that they are proud of me and what good things we as a team did. But, I can't think of it like that. The things we did were things that HAD to be done. Sick children, hundreds of people rushing up to you to get whatever you can give them, falling over each other and all competing for the medicine because they fear there is not enough...completely sad and overwhelming.

The work we did was worth all the stress. Seeing the children laugh and play when we organized games and gave them toys and colouring pencils was wonderful One day we organized about 50 children to come and play. It was really awesome to see.

If you guys managed to read right till the end of this, then I am happy. I feel that the only way any of the corruption or inequality of the country is going to be resolved, is by making people aware of the situation. Awareness is the first step. If nobody knows what's happening, then nothing will be done to change the system. If anyone wants to join me in fundraising and organizing events, please let me know. The more help, the more we can do.

Much love to you all,
Claudia

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The Beginning of the Past

By Masha Skvirtchak

Keyword after keyword, my fingers dance across the grey buttons of my keyboard. I scroll up and down the pages of Google data and try a brand new search after scanning unwanted titles. I try different keywords, as I feel they are the main obstacle in finding what I am looking for.

"advertising history," "ancient advertising," "advertising 3000 BC," "advertising beginning," "advertising outdoor 3000 BC"...

Keywords, as I learn after hours of research, hold all the power to the essential information. If you are too general, the information you are most likely to find would be of general content. If you are too specific, the information that would unfold on your screen would be limited. Keywords, like coffee where cream and sugar are balanced, have to be just right. Ironically enough, I take a sip of yet another cup of well-balanced coffee before I place it beside the stack of papers about advertising, unread research and copies of old ads.

My fingers return to my keyboard as I stubbornly probe a different set of keywords. I pick a thread and pull on it until a bigger picture unfolds. I type "Babylon 3000 BC outdoor signs" in the search field. Babylon, I learned from my research, is where it all started.

Archaeologists and historians from across the domains agree that the emergence of advertising dates back to 3000 BC. A number of sources state that the first advertisement, outdoor store signs, appear first in Babylon, Syria, ancient Rome, Pompeii, Egypt and Greece. Not one source from my findings agrees with the rest on the definite order of places in which the first outdoor signs appeared. Some sources repeatedly indicate that Babylon is the very first place where advertising originated, however, others concentrate on the forms of advertising rather than its origins.

I scan the list of my newly-discovered five possible origins and look for a link that connects them all. No definite linkage appears to surface until I stop researching advertising and start looking at the era of the 3000 BC.

Mesopotamia, the region that now locates contemporary Kuwait and northern Saudi Arabia, populated the earliest civilizations. Sumerians, a group of people who began to live in and form large city-states in Southern Mesopotamia, spoke a human language and developed the first writing system. The Akkadians, Simitic people that migrated north after they lost a battle and fell under the hegemony of the Akkadian kingdom, later created the city of Babylon. Babylon, for almost two thousand years afterwards, was the commercial and cultural center of the Middle East.

Learning about Mesopotamia helped me connect the origin of advertising to the era of 3000 BC. Most importantly, I realized the importance of researching the time frame of any event or invention. The time and setting of any particular development gives out vital signs of reasoning and causes behind the need of that development. Other developments of that time give out clues that help connect the pieces of puzzle and help see the origin of any invention on a grander scale.

People who populated Mesopotamia around 3000 BC established a business where they traded goods with neighboring regions. As the records from The British Museum indicate, merchants from Babylonia brought grain, oils and textiles into the foreign cities to exchange for timber, wine, precious metals and stones.

As any successful contemporary business establishment would agree, in order to assure the business's success, one needs to advertise. The people of Mesopotamia saw that opportunity as well, and took the first (possibly out of different motives) step.

An interesting aspect that I came across in my research is that not one source of my findings connects the two notions: trade and advertising. Not one source indicates that one came after another. Not one source sees the opportunity for research and the development of new theories that would note that first came the trade of goods between the people of Mesopotamia, and then came the advertising.

The lack of needed proof and valid documents that would discover trade and advertising as a cause-effect innovation did not discourage me, however, made my job harder in terms of further research. I blame the lack of evidence of the two notions as a result of general disinterest in the origins of advertising, which dates so far back as 3000 BC. In reality, most textbooks and scholarly texts, while recognizing the origins of advertising in Mesopotamia, mention this piece of information and promptly move on to the later significant dates to discuss them in full detail. The later significant date, the year of 1841 according to popular beliefs, outlines the true beginning of an advertising era, after Volney B. Palmer discovered the first advertising agency in Philadelphia.

As trade routs expanded in Babylon, Syria, ancient Egypt, Rome, Pompeii and Greece in 3000 BC, the development and advancement of civilization became more prominent. Local stores, as records indicate, began advertising by implementing store signs. Archaeologists have found evidence of the outdoor eye-catching signs, painted on the walls of the buildings. Most signs, according to the Encarta Encyclopedia, have been uncovered in the ruins of ancient Rome and Pompeii. Such signs advertised the property for rent, as well as invitations for travelers to taverns situated in another town. Although primitive in comparison to the contemporary means of advertising, those outdoor displays of goods and services stand analogous to today's billboards.

American Sign Museum, along side a few other sources in my research, propose that the use of advertising display at the place of business, such as outdoor signs, not only originated in 3000 BC, but also continues to be the most effective advertising medium used today. While I might challenge this view and consider the other successful means of advertising, such as the advertising agency or print media, I acknowledge the importance of the widespread advertisement at the business location.

Greeks and Romans, often recognized as the first users of outdoor advertising, hung their signs outside their shops to advertise and invite the onlookers. In Rome, a widely used outdoor display consisted of a bush of ivy and vine leaves, which Romans associated with Bacchus the God of Wine. This sign, attached to a pole, stood outside of the tavern to welcome the travelers and catch their attention.

Although many records indicate the existence of ancient signs, pieces of carved and painted stones and other on-premise insignia, very few are available for the general public to see. The reason for such a restricted access stems from the time frame the artifacts existed in, as well as the archeological limitations imposed by the cost, time and purpose.

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Spring around campus

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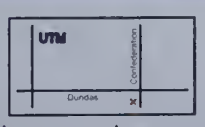

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Deafening

BY STEVE ELSHAW

Divided by symbols, another logo is made
While my stomach is full, outside lies the mess we create

I carved our names upon a tree; they rest there in the bark
But this trunk has fallen now, chopped down in the dark

More paper to print these tokens, that divide and link
Consuming land daily- selfish scriptures rarely think

Memories of these emblems, alone in the night
Forgotten logos, cast down by the light

And there will be no names on the trees anymore
For now the timber lies in a heap on the ground
When there is no one around when the last tree falls-
Will the crash still make a sound?

From the Editor

I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to those who have contributed to and read Features in *the Medium* this year. My experience as a part of *the Medium* team and working with the volunteer writers who helped shape Features made my final year my most fulfilling at UTM. Many brilliant pieces of writing and stunning pictures were submitted. Some of these, I was unable to print due to space constraints, and for that I apologize. Best of luck in your exams, and I hope you have a wonderful summer.

All good things,
Nadeem Basaria
Features Editor

Arts & Entertainment

It's a *Sin* to be such a good film

Movie Review:
Sin City
By Jason Marsh Larouche

Inspired by Frank Miller's graphic novels, *Sin City* is the product of its creator, Spy Kids director Robert Roderiguez, and "special guest director" Quentin Tarantino. All three bring something to the party: Miller's pull-no-punches script (the books themselves), Tarantino's talent for managing multi-angled plots, and Rodriguez's ability to handle a large cast of actors. *Sin City* is told from four different perspectives in order to give the audience a feeling of a city of millions rather than a town of fourteen.

Story one, eight years earlier, features honest cop (Bruce Willis), on the eve of early retirement, struggling to rescue an eleven-year-old girl from molestation by a corrupt politician's son.

The second (in the present) shows thug Marv (Mickey Rourke) framed murdering a hooker, Goldie (Jaime King), and determined to avenge her death.

> "[This movie] offers the chance to step into the pages of a comic book and the imagination of one of this era's noted creators"

The third plot involves rogue killer Dwight (Clive Owen); he upsets the truce between "Old City," a part of town operated and protected by stunning vigilante hookers, and the authorities through the death of an abusive cop (Benicio del Toro). Finally, we return to Willis, disgraced and free from an eight-year prison sentence, again protecting the child he rescued, now a 19 year old stripper (Jessica Alba) in "Old City."

Aside from the violent soap opera, *Sin City*'s CGI look dazzles. Filmed entirely on a green screen (à la *Sky Captain*) and without color (like the novels), it evokes the nostalgic feel of a 1940s crime drama. This movie's roles were challenging to some, while old shirts for others. Hartigan seemed tailor-made for Willis, best known for *Die Hard* persona John McClaine, especially as the role is an older man. Actresses like Carla Gugino (Lucille) and Jaime King bare their breasts to mirror their comic book counterparts.

Alba, sans nudity, still provides the fall from innocence required; she sees the older Hartigan as her lover. *Gilmore Girls*' Alexis Bledel plays a hooker new to "Old City" life, while Elijah Wood (*Lord of the Rings*' Frodo Baggins) left Bag End to be a mute cannibal. Inner dialogue also works, but fails when lines are needlessly repeated or thoughts are sounded after the characters are dead.

Bereft of tights and flights, *Frank Miller's Sin City* still offers the chance to step into the pages of a comic book and the imagination of one of this era's noted creators.

Make a quick *Stopover* to the Gladstone Hotel

Theatre Review
The Stopover
By Johanna Kristolaitis

What is reality? What is hallucination? *The Stopover* blends the boundaries between the two in hilarious ways. The performance space and the setting of the play are the same: the Gladstone Hotel Art Bar in Toronto. The catch is two characters are unaware of the audience, while the third is quite startled by them, creating two realities interacting on stage; which is real?

Two typical Timmins hosers, Billy and Jesse (believable and hysterical performances by Alastair Forbes and Luke Davies), "stop over" at the Gladstone Hotel in Toronto in between stages of a weed deal. The play begins as Jesse drags an unconscious cop he found in the back of his pick-up truck into the "empty" Art Bar, calls Billy in and they freak out over what to do. After coming to a decision they both leave the space. The cop, Karl (a convincingly confused Kristian Bruun), wakes up, sees us (the audience), and begins telling us what happened because he thinks we're a jury of some kind.

When the hosers return, the two realities collide. Jesse and Billy think Karl is crazy; Karl tries to figure out why he can see us and they can't. The hosers end up explaining they're here for a drug deal, putting Karl in a moral dilemma. As he figures out this must be a play, however, that dilemma disappears and he begins to yell at the author for writing him a screwed-up life. In the end, he leaves with Jesse and Billy, though this isn't as important or funny as many of the details I've left out (I wouldn't want to spoil the laughs for you).

The ironic part of the whole show, especially Karl's anger at the author, is that the three actors co-created the work for their company, alliesallover theatre co-op, and Bruun wrote it. The script is full of references to the performance space, including the art work on display. It's never entirely clear whose reality is real or what it all means, but the laughs are real, the story and characters engaging, and the style inventive and well worth watching.

The Stopover plays at the Gladstone Hotel Art Bar (1214 Queen West) until April 10. The only pay-what-you-can show is this Friday, April 8 at 2 p.m. Otherwise, ten dollars gets you almost an hour-and-a-half of hilarity at 6:30 p.m. or 8 p.m., Wednesday to Sunday. For more info: www.alliesallover.com

photo/ Graeme Stewart
Jesse (Luc Davies), Karl (Kristian Bruun), and Billy (Alastair Forbes) in Timmins.

Craft shows unique but pricey

By Amna Hussain

The difference between a nickel and a quarter is just like the difference between the Signatures Crafts show, held at the Metro Toronto Convention Center, and the One of a Kind show, held at the National Trade Center, both over the course of the long weekend. A signature, usually a scribble used to mark something as unique and as belonging to someone, seemed to be the motto of the artists that exhibited at that show. One of a Kind, however, pushed the unique factor even more and charged you for it, too.

I attended the Signatures show with my friends on Good Friday. Despite the ads plastered over the bus shelters in Mississauga, I would have gone to the One of a Kind and spent a lot of money there if one of my friends hadn't told me about it. Signatures was definitely targeted to a more mature audience. Most of the artists there were in their late thirties to early fifties, and the products themselves were for an older audience – hand-painted silk scarves, multi-colored barrettes, brooches, earrings, bracelets and necklaces made from clay, handmade and hand-painted wineglasses, porcelain dolls, metalwork, pottery, gourmet food, children's as well as adult clothing, and of course, lots and lots of jewelry. Some artists made shoes and coats as well.

One of my favorite artists at Signatures was a woman who made hats ($20) and jeweled pins ($10). Her sister knitted scarves and made elaborate brooches and earrings. Another had hand-made T-shirts with funny slogans on them. One thing I did not like about Signatures was the lack of food in the hall, except for those people who were giving out free samples.

One of a Kind was different. For one thing, it occupied a much larger space. It had a large food area at the back, including a Subway, various Spring Rolls stalls, as well as the gourmet food stalls situated next to them. I went to this show alone and was impressed at the variety and organization of the hall. There was a fashion district, pottery and ceramics district, a rising young stars area, and an area set aside for the fashion show.

If I thought there was a lot of jewelry at Signatures, twice that amount was at One of a Kind. Prices ranged from $21.75 for a choker with a resin pendant to $65 for a copper or silver snake arm cuff. Furniture was most expensive, followed by some pottery, clothes, toys, and so on through the items. In the food section, I couldn't resist the chocolate-covered blueberries grown in Okanagan Falls, British Columbia, as well as their dried, no-sugar added apple crunch.

Although I enjoyed looking at everything, I realized something. It's best to go to the craft shows if you want to buy gifts for someone else. I wouldn't be able to afford that stuff for myself.

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Talent-filled student productions

Theatre Review
On The Fringe X
By Johanna Kristolaitis

"On The Fringe X" featured three student productions at Theatre Erindale, March 28 to 30. As usual, the acting and directing would lead you to believe the students involved had spare time on their hands, though if you know any Theatre and Drama Studies students (especially third years), you know that isn't true.

The first two plays, *Funeral Parlour* and *Hang Up* went back to back; both were short and explored themes of human relationships, sorrow and joy in very different ways. *Funeral Parlour* features the same conversation twice, and shows you just how important context and delivery is to meaning. The chemistry on stage between Mike Ellis and Laura Miyata, especially the second time around, combined beautifully with Erez Bowers' direction to create an engaging piece of theatre. A special kudos to Miyata for her powerful keening moment.

> "*On The Fringe X* shows us the diversity of talent that UTM will offer the future of theatre"

Hang Up explored long-distance relationships through a couple's phone call. Joanna Douglas and Zachary Smadu spoke from opposite sides of the stage, never looking at each other; their dialogue, tone, problems and range of emotion portrayed the difficulties of time apart and commitment issues.

The dancers, Tyler Seguin and Tamara Chandon, complemented their story through graceful execution of Douglas' choreography. The piece had a sense of dynamics and unity, thanks to director Heather Ervin.

Colours in the Storm, directed and edited by Sonja Seiler, ended the evening. This musical, which featured a cast of thirteen and a trio of musicians, told the tale of Tom Thomson (played charmingly by Scott Pietrangelo), a Canadian artist who frequently visited Algonquin park as inspiration for his artwork. The whole ensemble was fabulous, the many songs and harmony sections beautifully performed, and the direction smooth and often clever.

The annual student productions are a highlight of the season for many Theatre Erindale fans. While the main season shows are always well done, "On The Fringe X" shows us the diversity of talent that UTM will offer the future of theatre.

Jin should stick to freestyling

BY JAIME-ANNE WHITE

Those who follow the hip hop free styling world already know the name of **Jin the MC**. Jin has been taking the freestyle battle world by storm with his quick-witted lines and sometimes corny humor. These elements are present in his debut solo album, entitled *The Rest is History*.

Unfortunately, Jin has fallen into one of the pits that many freestyle artists (e.g. **Skillz**, **Cannabis** and **Supernatural**) fall into when they try to produce an album. There is a difference between written rhymes and freestyling and the sooner freestylers start to realize this the better it will be for those of us who enjoy hip hop. Of course there are the exceptions to the rule (Eminem and **The Roots' Blackthought**), artists who have both great freestyling skills and who are able to drop a hot album, but for the majority this proves to be a daunting challenge that many aren't able to meet. Jin included.

Even though Jin enlisted the help of some of the major artists of our time (**Twista**, **Kanye West** and **Wyclef**) to promote sales of his album, involving these artists does not help the production quality or the lyric content of his songs. Not even the glorified Kanye West helps this album with his beat on the song "I got love." This has got to be one of Kanye's worst beats ever. It sounds as though this was a throw away track that Jin and his cronies over at Ruff Ryder 'dumpster dived' and dropped into the mix.

The game is over. Jin can no longer run on the novelty of his being a Chinese rapper, a point he emphasized in his first single "Learn Chinese." Now, this is not to say that his album doesn't have its good points. He does try really hard to have his personality shine through all of his songs, but perhaps he tries too hard and this makes his album weak in this reviewer's opinion. Jin tries to show his witty side in the song "Club Song." It is in this song that he comments on the current trend of artists having specifically identified club songs.

Jin needs to stick to what he knows. Perhaps the lack of album sales will teach him something. Not all freestyling artists can have success with albums that do not showcase their freestyling. Perhaps Jin's next album should be a compilation of all of his freestyles. That might prove to be more profitable because *The Rest is History* is already history.

Our society is *Special*

BOOK REVIEW
Hello, I'm Special

BY JOHANNA KRISTOLAITIS

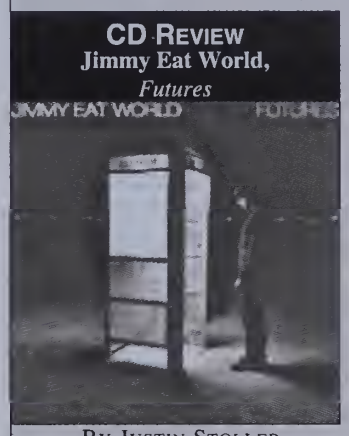
Have you noticed that everything these days seems to be about finding your uniqueness? Hal Niedzviecki certainly did, beginning with a Hallmark anti-conformist birthday card from his parents. From there, Niedzviecki explored our wide world of specialness, and brings us his findings in this book.

We meet backyard wrestlers, Elvis impersonators, and *Canadian Idol* hopefuls, among many other "special" people. Issues of religion, health, morality and culture are viewed through this lens, showing us how we're changing our world through our belief in individuality as the ultimate goal.

As I read this book, I began seeing evidence of the emphasis on "special" everywhere. Some of the people in the book are very much like people I know. No one wants to be average; no one wants to be like anyone else. We're all the same in our difference, one of Niedzviecki's points.

This book is a good balance between pure theory and fun, and is definitely worth the read. Whether or not you like this commercialized world of entertainment and individuality, it will help you understand it.

Futures looks bright for *Jimmy Eat World*



BY JUSTIN STOLLER

Released October 19, 2004, this follow-up album to **Jimmy Eat World**'s hugely successful debut, *Bleed American*, maintains the bands status as original and energetic. Like its predecessor, the songs of *Futures* have the feeling of music matched to emotion. The intent behind the music shines through as music given to thought; where instruments and sounds are chosen carefully rather than just used banally like so many emo or indie bands. This is the feature that separates mere self-proclaimed musicians from artists.

The appearance of the title track in the first slot sets up this album as a themed one; the concept of "futures" refers to the difficulty in finding a "balance between living decent and the call of the real." Throughout the album "real" problems and issues are explored such as drugs and relationships, while hope and dread are exposed together in what feels like a discourse through music.

This album follows the band's formula. With a similar range and mix of hard and softer songs, and similar placement in track order, the album feels a bit like an echo of the first. The placing of the hardest song as track six, "Pain" (also the first single off the album), just before the softest song, "Drugs or Me," in the album's center reinforces the theme of duality and balance in the album. No doubt the band is attempting to repeat their first success, and who can blame them? Unfortunately the formula for their album undermines its creativity.

To maintain the energy in the music for which they are well known, Jimmy Eat World utilizes emphasized eighth notes with various instruments, a large part of the appeal in the first album. It is part of their sound now but makes the songs a bit predictable, and those tracks that do not use this device sound a bit out of place. However, the album as a cohesive piece still works as the songs fit together in tone and emotion very powerfully.

All told, the songs contain both meaningful lyrics and interesting and suitable music. *Futures* is a well crafted album that will grow on you after each listen. As usual, the singles are not the best songs off the album. So, if you like what you've heard on the radio check out the rest. It does not disappoint.

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Erindale College Student Union News and Notes

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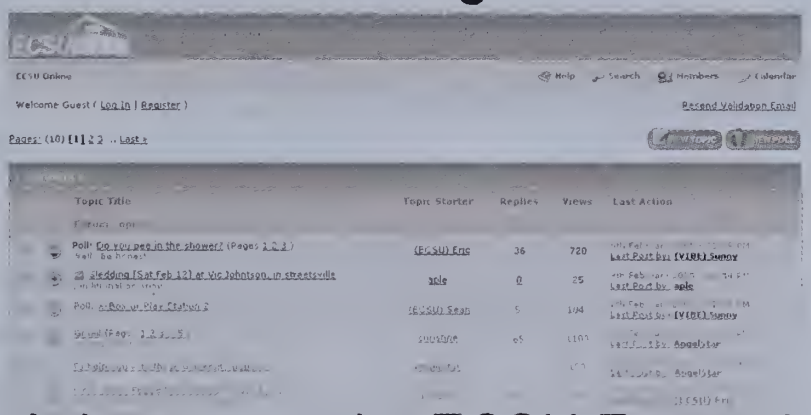

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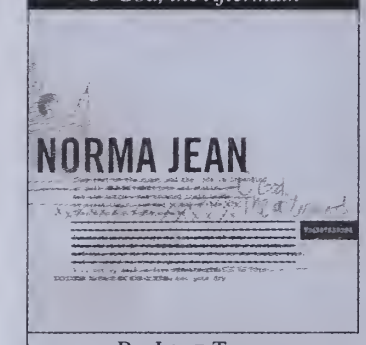
Chaos and calm collide

CD Review
Norma Jean,
O' God, the Aftermath



By Julie Tyios

Following the success of their debut full-length album *Bless the Martyr and Kiss the Child*, hardcore-infused metal band **Norma Jean** has made a comeback with *O' God, the Aftermath*, much anticipated by fans worldwide after nearly two years of production.

Featuring a mixture of both aggressive and melodic tracks such as "Murderotica," "Vertebraille," "Charactarantula" and the ten-minute long "Disconnecktie," the album is bound to be a successful follow-up to their 2002 debut, which has sold over 60,000 copies in the US alone. The album is shifted toward the artistic elements of hardcore, lacking many elements of the genre's traditional structure, lyrics and style. The album itself is an overall picture of artistry: the lyrics, song titles and aesthetics are thematic and heavily symbolic.

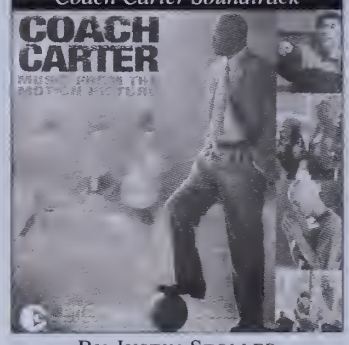
Norma Jean has one other release under their belt, an EP entitled *Throwing Myself* from 2001. From this and their 2002 release, the band toured on the road for nearly two and a half years during the creation of *O' God, the Aftermath*, putting on live shows which are now renowned for their energy and artistic elements. The album was heavily influenced by the works of metal titans **Pantera** and the hardcore sounds of **Poison the Well**, and also features hints of **Tool**'s unique musical style.

O' God, the Aftermath is unique from works by other hardcore artists in that it expands the genre by infusing elements from many others, including a number of properly placed time changes and merging of styles. Norma Jean continues to break the mould of hardcore as the album itself was meant to portray a positive and uplifting message to listeners, according to the band's website, as the word "aftermath" in the title is synonymous with grace and salvation.

The album was produced by Matt Bayles, who has also handled works by **Isis** and **Botch**. The band is currently completing a world tour with **Unearth** and **Atreyu**, which came to The Phoenix in Toronto on March 9. Having not previously been a fan of Norma Jean and also unfortunately missing their opening act that night, I was still thoroughly impressed by the writing and production done on this album, which overall portrays a perfect mixture of aggressiveness and euphonic breaks in the midst of chaos.

Album mirrors film

CD Review
Various Artists,
Coach Carter Soundtrack



By Justin Stoller

On January 11, Capitol records released the soundtrack for the Paramount film *Coach Carter*. On the surface, the soundtrack is like any other collection of rap and R&B songs. Some songs seem to be included simply because they mention basketball, like **Chingy**'s track featuring **G.I.B.** "Professional," but there are some more interesting choices and the track order has a logic to it that may escape the passive listener.

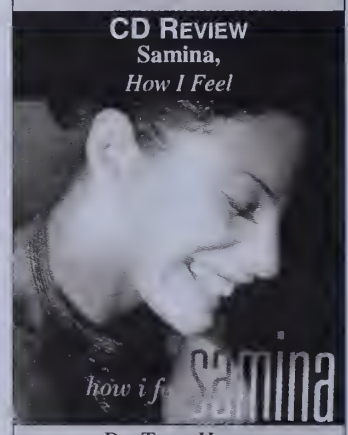
The tracks are all new compositions featuring big names like the already mentioned Chingy, **Ciara**, **Kanye West**, **Twista** and more. The order of the songs attempts to mimic the emotional trip that the movie takes. For the most part, this mimetic feature in the album (common in most soundtracks) is nothing special, but there are a few points of interest.

Track eleven titled "Balla" and recorded by **Mack 10** featuring **Da Hood** speaks to the sub-culture surrounding urban basketball and the myth of the big time baller. Not unlike the football mentality in the southern states of America, urban basketball takes on a whole set of meanings. Lyrical lines like "she says she needs a balla, I ain't talking about an athlete" separates the game of basketball itself from the conventions that surround its stars in either a professional or urban setting. This theme is present in *Coach Carter* as the characters in the film become town celebrities and heroes, and are forced to face and overcome this sub-culture head on.

The final song on the album, "About the Game" by **Trey Songz**, takes basketball out of that sub-culture frame and places it as something pure and good. The difference then between a balla and the game, although separated only by a few tracks on the album, is a world of difference. As this statement is accomplished in the film, the soundtrack speaks to that separation by careful song selection and placement. *Coach Carter* will go down in history as a great sports film and its corresponding soundtrack deserves just as much attention.

*Feel*ing the blues

CD Review
Samina,
How I Feel



By Tina Hung

Blues. It's the perfect name. There's the blues when you're feeling blue and you listen to the blues; then there's the blues when you actually feel blue because you're listening to the blues. Samina's album, *How I Feel*, works for both types. But in my opinion, an album that makes you feel blue when you listen to it wouldn't be a good album. Or would it?

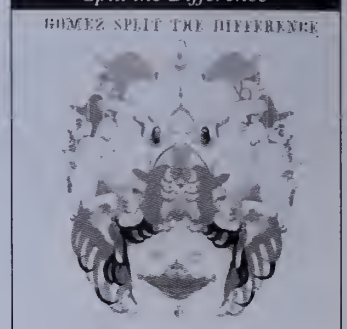
Voice. Samina possesses a breathy, soft, but muffled voice. She would put everyone to sleep if she didn't play with dynamics, yet when joined by the many instruments in her songs, it actually makes for some pretty interesting sounds. Hints of blues, jazz, Latin and soul appear throughout the album. As blues is the dominant genre, non-blues lovers may find the album a bit on the boring side. I sure did.

Songs. The first time I listened to the album, everything sounded the same. The songs and her voice were repetitive and annoying, especially on "Do I Do." The second time, I began to notice the differences. Songs like "Quiet Nights of Quiet Stars" and the Latin beats of "Day by Day" became favourites. She also sings a French song, "Et si tu n'existais pas," the last song on her album.

Samina. Her background is a bit of a mystery considering she was adopted at six months by a family in Quebec. She studied fashion at LaSalle College but found her niche after she began taking singing lessons. *How I Feel* is her first album.

Gomez lost talent

CD Review
Gomez,
Split the Difference



By Sean Fitzgerald

One word characterizes **Gomez**'s *Split the Difference*: boring. The fourth album from this British blues-rock band hobbles around one good song, a talented drummer, and a few interesting guitar intros. The remaining twelve tracks are audio chores. You find yourself glancing at other CD cases: What could I be listening to instead? The band strives for a rousing, earthy, American blues-rock sound; instead, Gomez presents the listener with a cluttered mess. *Split the Difference* sounds like a second-rate **Wilco** with three vocalists trying to imitate **Eddie Vedder**.

The first three tracks surge with energy but lack vocal hooks. By the fourth track, the album feels tired and lyrically lacklustre. Weak choruses often just repeat song titles. Ben Ottewell, Tom Gray, and Ian Ball demonstrated their songwriting abilities on Gomez's celebrated debut, *Bring It On*. Six years later, these skills are lost.

"Sweet Virginia," the only listenable track here, captures the listener immediately and hides him in a room full of warm strings, affecting lyrics, and catchy melodies. The song travels from groove to ballad to epic. The end sounds like the listener is being swallowed into a tornado of backwards drum hits and minor key piano notes.

The band succeeds on portions of other tracks. The bass fuzzes with conviction on "Do One" and "Don't Know Where We're Going." The latter song blends electronic blips, peculiar piano loops, and eerie vocal effects; the bridge suits a Quentin Tarantino film. "Catch Me Up" ends with a tuck-me-into-bed feel as slide guitar, steady bass, and whispered melodies drift into a fadeout. Group vocals and Eastern percussion give "Meet Me in the City" a dark, tribal feel.

Olly Peacock, the drummer, tries extremely hard in every song. However, his intricate rhythms get lost in triple guitar mush. Musicianship and ego overpower songwriting and catchiness on many tracks. Songs begin with impressive acoustic guitar riffs but dissolve when the band plays together. Any instrumental brilliance shown on the song "Extra Special Guy" is overshadowed by the horrific vocals. "There It Was," the final track, tries to end the album with a hushed down-tempo ballad. It fails with a humdrum melody and dull lyrics.

Stay away from *Split the Difference* in record stores. Download "Sweet Virginia" and purchase a Wilco album instead.

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Mm...Food good to the last beat

CD REVIEW
MF Doom,
Mm...Food

BY MONIQUE BULIMAIBAU

In the classic hip-hop tradition, **Daniel Dumile** is the possessor of various alter-egos: **Zev Love X**, **MF (metal fingers) Doom**, **Viktor Vaughn** and **King Geedorah**.

Armed with a mic, turntables and a SP 1200, Dumile transforms from a mild-mannered emcee/producer into a hip-hop hero, or rather a super villain. As a hip-hop veteran of over ten years with a growing legion of fans, Doom has collaborated with a large number of underground and commercial artists. From the immense success of his collaboration with the producer **Madlib** as **Madvillain** in early 2004, Doom released *Mm...Food* in November as a follow-up to 1999's *Operation Doomsday*.

With *Mm...Food*, MF Doom serves up 15 tasty tracks that will satisfy the palate of underground heads and backpackers. In his sophomore release as MF Doom, he mixes his signature nonchalant delivery with intricate word play. The result is a happy medium between thought-provoking rhymes and ludicrous punch lines.

> "Perhaps the only drawback of this album is... 'special recipes,' [four tracks] consisting of skits, voiceovers, and nicely assembled beats, but no rhyming"

One of the highlights of this album is the unique (and often obscure) samples that Doom uses in his recipes. These include classic tracks from Whodini, Spiderman episodes from the 1970s, and tunes from Sesame Street. While the majority of these beats are prepared by Doom himself, guest chefs include **Count Bass D**, **PNS** and the ever-talented Madlib. This album features tracks such as "Hoe Cakes," "Deep Fried Frenz," and "Kookies," which are aptly named to suit the culinary theme.

From the first track, "Beef Rapp," listeners get a sample of MF Doom's lyrical finesse. Although Doom does not rhyme with the speed of **Twista** or **Busta Rhymes**, his lines evoke reactions like "did he say what I thought he said?"

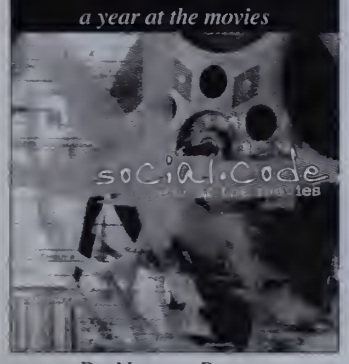
Doom's lyrical talent shines through on "Deep Fried Frenz," a hip-hop ode to opportunistic, fair-weather friends: "some come in the form of co-dependence/a lot of times only end up being co-defendants/10 bucks says they'd tell for a lower sentence/and leave you up under the jail begging for a penance."

Perhaps the only drawback of this album is the brief segment (it's four tracks long) titled "special recipes," consisting of skits, voiceovers, and nicely assembled beats, but no rhyming. For those not used to Doom's random, unconventional style, this segment may leave the listener scratching his or her head. However, the second half of the album picks up, featuring a collaboration with **Mr. Fantastik** and grand finale with "Kookies," employing the voice of the infamous Cookie-Monster in the track.

Overall, it is a solid effort on Doom's part, reflecting the raw elements of hip-hop in his rhymes and sampling techniques. *Mm...Food* displays a creativity that still exists in hip-hop, seldom seen in the more contrived and heavily-rotated forms of the genre.

Social Code is a match for *movies*

CD REVIEW
Social Code,
a year at the movies



BY NOELLA RAMOS

[Opening] Focus on girl listening to the radio as terrific rock music fills the room. "Sounds good. Who's it by?" she says out loud and a few minutes later she hears "...and that was 'Beautiful' by **Social Code**."

[Cut to a few weeks later] Same girl walks through halls of Student Centre and decides to review a CD for the school paper. Imagine her surprise when, while thumbing through the CDs, she arrives at *a year at the movies* by the very same Social Code. Intrigued, she decides to choose this CD to review and our story begins.

[Cut to present] Girl writing...

a year at the movies is the new album by Canada's own Social Code, formerly known as Fifth Season; it showcases what the guys have termed their "punk 'n roll" style. Some may have heard their debut single, "Beautiful," on the radio and been curious about what their album has to offer. Let me tell you that it was quite entertaining to listen to and even though I have my personal favourites, the album has the potential to appeal to many people, either in whole or in select songs. The album does not disappoint and features a variety of rock and punk 'n roll songs, some à la "Beautiful" and others slower and more emotional.

"Beautiful" is an upbeat song, the first of many on the CD, with a catchy tune and a great message, namely that being "typical" is overrated and that beauty comes in various forms. "Cats and Dogs" is an entertainment song and one that cover bands will have a good time with. It's one of those 'we made it through, we survived' songs that can apply to friends as well as couples.

For those of you who've been through or who are going through a rough break-up, or who just like emo-esque music, Social Code has something to offer you as well. Songs like "Gone Away" and "Miss You" are melodic and sad while really being anthems for the broken-hearted. It is quite cathartic to sing/scream along with them; this can really relieve some unnecessary stress. "Miss You" also wonderfully captures the punk 'n roll style the guys were going for.

Personally I also like the title of this album; in my opinion (being a not-so-closet actress and screen-writer), it showcases the potential of some songs to be featured in movie soundtracks. A great example of this is "Perfect Grave" – what I call a 'great dust off your lighters and flail 'em in the air' type song – which is another sad ballad and could be great for those sad contemplation moments, while the director cuts from one scene to the next.

Well enough of my opinion: hear and see for yourself. Pick up their CD, or better yet, check them out live at The Dock's muSICK series on Saturday April 16, if you have the chance. [Fade to Black].

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Sports

UTM men's basketball claims title for fourth straight year

By Christina Khoury

YES! YES! YES! and YES! The men's division one basketball team has done it. Again and again and again and again. The Eagles are the first UTM team to win four division titles. Last Monday, they did so consecutively. Here is a play by play of their victory.

Tension mounts in the gym as UTM trails behind University College. In one hustle, UTM is three points behind. It's 13-10 for UC. Three minutes later, 9:10 remains in the first half and UC is up 25-16. The referee shrieks his whistle and UTM gets snubbed on a travel. The guys on the bench stare onto the court. This is the start of the championship game.

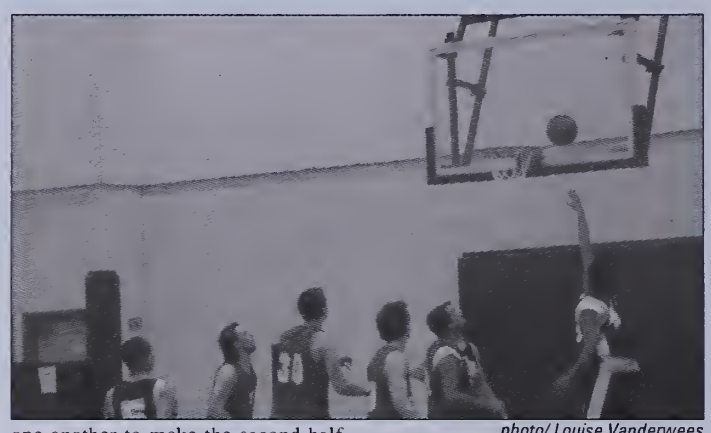
UC's 28 and 29, Roman Brailovski and Adam Diamant, handle the ball with ease, clearing it from the UC zone. Strong defense on UC's part throughout the beginning of the first half. And 28 almost smacked my laptop trying to keep the ball in. Great defense.

Then it starts. UTM's fuse is lit. The team Posting nicely in the key, Tom Morrow steals a rebound, launching the ball to Eric Liao. Alan Carty takes it from there, flying through a pack of UC men. He tips the ball straight into the net for 23 points.

The UTM bleachers hype up and chant "DE-FENSE, DE-FENSE." UTMAC t-shirts wave in the air and UTMAC VP of finance, Sonia Chawla, tells me that "UTM couldn't have done this without the fans." Sonia tends to the raffle and cheers among the excited UTM fans.

The first half buzzer sounds. The boys make their way over to the bench. Forming a semi-circle around Coach Anish Bhalla, the team makes suggestions, maps out plans, and encourages

photo/ Louise Vanderwees



photo/ Louise Vanderwees

one another to make the second half count.

Making it count. Step 1: Marius Stankiewicz tosses straight into the net to make it 47-51. UC in favor. Step 2: Tom McCullough dominates the key and tips the ball in to make it 49-53. UC still in favor. Step 3: Three pointer! 52-53. UTM is creeping up and Neil Sehra is to thank for the latest footwork and net acquisition.

Neil lines up for a foul shot and sinks 53 and 54, putting UTM in the lead. Defense is getting incredibly strong. UTM storms and pushes their way into the other zone.

Alan Carty's game pinpointing lay-up screams determination and drive from the boys. Arash Moghani sinks a foul shot to give UTM its 74th point.

Eric Liao lines up for his foul shots. Silence. First shot, in. 75 points. Second shot, in. 76 points. "10, 9, 8, 7..." the crowd counts down. The last ten seconds of a game always tend to give me goose bumps. UTM fans smile, exchange hugs, high fives, "6, 5, 4, 3". The team hustles down the court, smiles from ear to ear. "2, 1.....BBZZZZZ."

76-69 Eagles.

Jack Krist presents the Sifton Cup to the men. "This is the last championship presented this year, and it goes to UTM." The team gathers around the trophy, raising it towards the roar emanating from the stands.

Randy Baliat grabs his bag from the sidelines. "It was a hard fought game," he says, "but in the end, it was all UTM baby."

"I can't help but be happy because we were undefeated throughout the season and we worked really hard to get to where we were," says second year starting shooting guard Neil Sehra. "The other team had a couple of ex-varsity players and they were hitting all their shots. In the second half we tried to shoot down the best players and we were strong on defense."

Coach Anish Bhalla summed up the amalgamation of pride and great coaching. "We played hard the whole season, and when it came down to it, it showed in this game," he says. "Tom (McCullough) and Eric (Liao) showed great leadership and led our team, combined with the efforts of everyone else. I'm proud of all the guys, their dedication, integrity and most of all, team spirit that led us to be the fourth consecutive division one champions."

Assistant coach Vishal Gupta self-votes and tells me that "Anish Bhalla is coach of the year!"

Well, we certainly know who the team of the year is for soaring higher and higher and higher and higher. I guess the "four" theme has been adequately stressed. One more time for the folks in the back: All four one and one four all! Congratulations Eagles!

photo/ Louise Vanderwees

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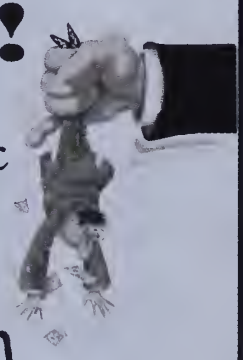

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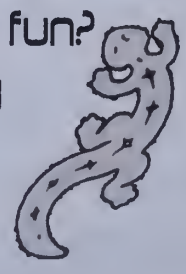

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Lady Eagles show they are all heart

BY TIFFANY LOW FOON

On Wednesday, March 23, the UTM Lady Eagles met Scarborough for the Championship Finals. The Lady Eagles faced Scarborough twice before this season, losing one game and winning the other. The Lady Eagles' hopes were high as they won their last game against Scarborough two weeks prior. Straight from the face off, the battle between UTM and Scarborough raged on. Both teams played offensively and defensively, the puck bouncing back and forth between the UTM and Scarborough zones. It would be Scarborough that struck first. With less than ten minutes remaining in the first period, a Scarborough player whipped the puck at the UTM net. The puck deflected off a player's stick, over the goalie, and sailed straight into the net. In the second period, it would be Scarborough again putting one in the UTM net. Despite being down 2-0, the UTM Lady Eagles still fought hard for the puck, getting many chances of their own in the second period. With the second period winding down, UTM pulled their goaltender in one final effort to break Scarborough's dominance on the scoreboard. The game ended in a 2-0 win for Scarborough.

Though it was a disappointing loss against Scarborough, this year the UTM Lady Eagles had a wicked season. Placing first overall in both the winter and spring seasons, UTM had a record of eight wins, three losses and one tie. New players brought vitality to the team and a new coach brought new strategies and tactics. Honorable mentions go out to everyone on the team for working so hard all the way to the end. Thanks for another wonderful season and best of luck for next year.

Men's indoor soccer team continues winning tradition

BY GERGIN NAOUMOV

The men's division one soccer team won its fourth title in five years after beating SKULE (Faculty of Engineering) 5-1 in the finals. After cruising through the regular season with a perfect 7-0 record, the team took care of business in the playoffs with dominating wins in the semis and the final. Surprisingly, the campus police reports in The Medium did not include the Steven Seagal-level assault the team laid on the league.

SKULE was able to keep the game scoreless in the first half, but UTM's relentless attack was beginning to show it was only a matter of time. Only some great saves from the SKULE goalie prevented Ibrahim "The Last Leaf" Aboghodieh and Helder Borges from putting UTM ahead. UTM goalie Adam Parisi also made some key saves to squash any hopes of an upset.

UTM came out more aggressive in the second half, and it was not long before Chris Willis opened the scoring with a perfect one-time shot into the corner of the net. SKULE tied the game, but that was like the last moment of serenity given to people whose time is near. At this point, Mazen "Maximus" Zaki, the Spaniard from Egypt, took over the game. First, he set up Bruno Pellegrino's go-ahead goal. It should be noted that Pellegrino scored much more often this year after shedding his luxurious ways and relinquishing the Doug Christie Memorial Trophy. Zaki followed that with two quick goals in a minute. Soon after, Sami Gideon, a relative of Benny Hinn, finished off SKULE by continuing the family tradition of dropping people. After ill twisting and megging (and generally disorienting) a defender; he dropped the goalie with a fake and then shelfed the ball. The SKULE player was probably not cured of his unathleticism, but the record crowd did go into a frenzy. All eleven fans.

A special thanks to all the players that made this year's team special. Even if we can't make middle management, don't get into med school, or end up selling women's shoes, we'll have these memories.

Upcoming MLB Season Resurfaces Steroid Controversy

BY NEIL MENESES

As University students, a number, if not all of us, find staying mentally stable tough. If you live at home, living with your parents will probably drain your sanity. If you live away from home, you have just become independent! But, tuition, bills, groceries, entertainment and extenuating circumstances will probably drain your sanity, too. Especially now at exam/cram time, staying sane seems insurmountable.

So as a student, you juggle these real life stresses. At the same time, of course, you devote a boatload of time to your studies. And through all the researching, essaying, and writing you pay close attention to academic integrity. Academic integrity, in other words, means no cheating. No plagiarism, no peeking at your peers paper, no supplemental aids.

If you break that integrity, you don't receive the full benefit of a university education (not to mention the cruel and unusual punishment you'll receive if caught). What do you learn about spirituality if you download a paper comparing Buddhism to Taoism for your introductory philosophy course?

So, if Barry Bonds wants to sit in front of a media scrum and say that steroids doesn't increase hand eye coordination, and it makes no difference if baseball players use steroids, and talking about steroids in sports is like watching re-runs of Sanford and Sons, then I have one thing to say to him and others with the same view: WIMPS!!!

Try to explain professional athletes doing drugs to a university student who busts both sides of their brain while cramming for four finals. We don't get paid for that. As such a student various times through my university career, I say to Barry Bonds and all the other cheaters, you WIMPS!!! Scared of a little competition? Scared of a little hard work?

In baseball, steroids turn fly outs into homeruns. Steroids make 50 homerun seasons the benchmark for a power hitter. I'm all for progression in sports, and I believe change is good, but doesn't steroids ruin the integrity of sports? The player uses steroids as a supplemental aid. Steroids give the athlete an unfair advantage, like a student who brings a palm pilot to a math exam. Competitively, the other students, the ones who studied harder, suffer. Increased numbers of athletes on steroids disallows TRUE athletes (healthy, physically robust athletes) from cracking the professional ranks.

The obvious response, "Well it doesn't give them an advantage if all players use steroids," doesn't dazzle me. Sure steroids mean more homeruns, more stolen bases, more bone bashing plays at the plate. But at what cost? Unhealthy athletes. Isn't that a contradiction? Do we want a rank of professionals who legally die earlier and live in bad health after forty?

And Bud Selig, and all the good ol' boys that run Major League Baseball, knew what was happening. They kept their mouths shut. Baseball's popularity dwindled greatly in North America after the 1995 lockout. The homerun races and record-breaking seasons spawned by steroids, regained that popularity. That popularity brought in big dollars for the good ol' boys. I'd be pretty pissed off if the Dean knew the person beside me brought a palm pilot to my math exam, but didn't do anything about it.

And steroids aren't progression, its Neanderthal-like regression. The bigger and stronger crushes the talented, ingenious, and intelligent. Sounds uncivilized to me. These athletes who will do anything to gain a step up on the competition should take a step back. Sports are exciting and entertaining, but they' are not everything. Think of your future health and the effect it has on your family, friends, sports, society and your integrity.

Jays riding the razor's edge going into the 2005 season

BY MICHAEL SINGH

After a very surprising 2003 season in which the Toronto Blue Jays won 86 games, fans were hoping the Jays could build on that in 2004. However, injuries and inconsistency plagued the team in 2004 causing the Jays to win only 67 games, their lowest total since 1995. The Jays now enter the 2005 season with a whole lot of question marks, from their lineup, to their starting pitching, to their bullpen. Moreover, they must do this without Carlos Delgado, the face of the team for the past eleven years. Delgado's production will definitely be missed on a team that ranked 25th in homeruns last season with only 145, less than one a game. If the Jays are going to return to their 2003 form, they must stay healthy for one and they must have their young players develop like general manger J.P Riccardi is hoping.

Lineup

The Jays signed Corey Koskie in the off season to play third base, which moved Eric Hinske to first base, replacing Delgado. Koskie is a solid player, who should add some pop to the lineup since he hit 25 homers last season. Along with Koskie, the Jays acquired Shea Hillenbrand in a trade with Arizona. Hillenbrand is very good at getting on base, as indicated by his .348 on base percentage. He also drove in 80 runs on a very bad ball club last season, so he should be an upgrade at DH for the Jays. However, the player that really has to step up for Toronto this year has to be Vernon Wells. Wells, as most of the Jays, had a disappointing 2004 season batting .272 with only 67 RBIs. This year, Wells will have to step up to help shoulder the load without Delgado. Wells may not have the same power as Delgado but he can run the bases much better and could be looking at 20 stolen bases this year. After flirting with Chris Woodward and Chris Gomez over the past two seasons, the Jays will start 2002 first round draft pick Russ Adams at shortstop. Adams is a good looking prospect that batted .306 last year in limited action. If Adams struggles though, he could be pushed by 2003 first round pick Aaron Hill, who will start the season in AAA. At second base the Jays are set with fan favorite Orlando Hudson. Hudson should have been a gold glover last season with his great play in the field and his hat continues to improve as he had a .270 average last season. Hudson also possess very good speed, which could lead to 20 or more steals in coach John Gibbons' more aggressive base running plan.

The most interesting story of spring for the Jays was the play of young outfielder Gahe Gross. Gross led the AL in homeruns during the spring with eight and showed more than enough to make the team.

"I don't see how we can't take him with us. It would be a nice reward," said manager John Gibbons

Gross may have pushed incumbent right fielder, Alexis Rios out of a job with his play during the spring. With the Jays abundance of outfielders, including Wells, Gross, Rios, Reed Johnson and Frank Catalanotto, the Jays may be able to swing a trade to bring in a solid starting pitcher, since it will be very tough to find playing time for all these players.

Finally, the veteran Gregg Zaun will return behind the plate for the Jays, managing the catching duties until Guillermo Quiroz is ready to take over the duties, which may not be until the end of the season.

Starting Pitching

This may be the Jays strongest or shakiest area on the roster, depending on health and the performance of their young pitchers. At the top of the rotation, Roy Halladay returns in the first year of his new extension. The doctor will be looking to prescribe a little bit of his 2003 form, when he won the Cy Young award after winning 22 games, including an amazing nine complete games. Second on the rotation, when he returns from injury, will be Ted Lilly.

Lilly had a solid 2004 season, where the lefty won 12 games and was second in the American League in opponent's batting average, allowing only .230. After the starting two, the Jays rotation is shaky with youngsters making up the third and fourth positions. David Bush will most likely be manning the third spot in the starting rotation and is coming off a solid first season in the big league.

Bush, in 16 games, amassed a record of 5-4, with a 3.69 ERA. Bush has a solid fastball and a very good curveball, but he must improve his changeup if he is to make the next step in his MLB career. After Bush, Gustavo Chacin takes the fourth spot and is the second lefty in the rotation. Chacin has some sick stuff on the mound and he showed it while winning 16 games in AA last season. When called up to the big league last year, Chacin looked good in the two games he played but so far in spring, Chacin has been inconsistent, showing flashes of solid play followed by rookie mistakes.

At the five spot is Josh Towers, a finesse pitcher who needs everything to go right if he is going to play well. Towers does not have great stuff but he is a smart player who could be solid if he is not asked to do too much.

Bullpen

The Jays bullpen has been terrible over the past two seasons and the Jays did little to improve it this year. The Jays continued with their plan from last season to move starting pitcher Miguel Batista to the closing role. Batista has very good stuff on the mound, but his control is very inconsistent, which leads to walks and bad pitches. Batista should be able to handle the role of closer, but the question is how many opportunities will he get? Setting up Batista will be last season's projected closer Justin Spier. Spier struggled last season but with the pressure off him this year, he may be able to perform up to his $1.6 million salary. The Jays brought in left handed Scott Schoeneweis this year to help strengthen the 'pen, but at $5.25 million over two years, did the Jays overspend? Last seasons closer during the year, Jason Frasor, will return and hopes to improve on last season. Frasor will most likely be a short relieve pitcher, which works to the strength of limiting his pitches. The wildcard in the Jays bullpen is blue chip prospect Brandon League, who possesses a great fastball and an improving sinker. If League can continue to improve his great stuff, he could be the Jays new closer by the end of the season.

Outlook

The Jays need just about everything to go right for them to finish third behind the Yankees and the Red Sox. However, due to inexperience, lack of power and starting pitching, they will most likely finish fourth behind the Baltimore Orioles in the AL East. The Jay should improve on their 67 win total from last year but by how much remains to be seen.

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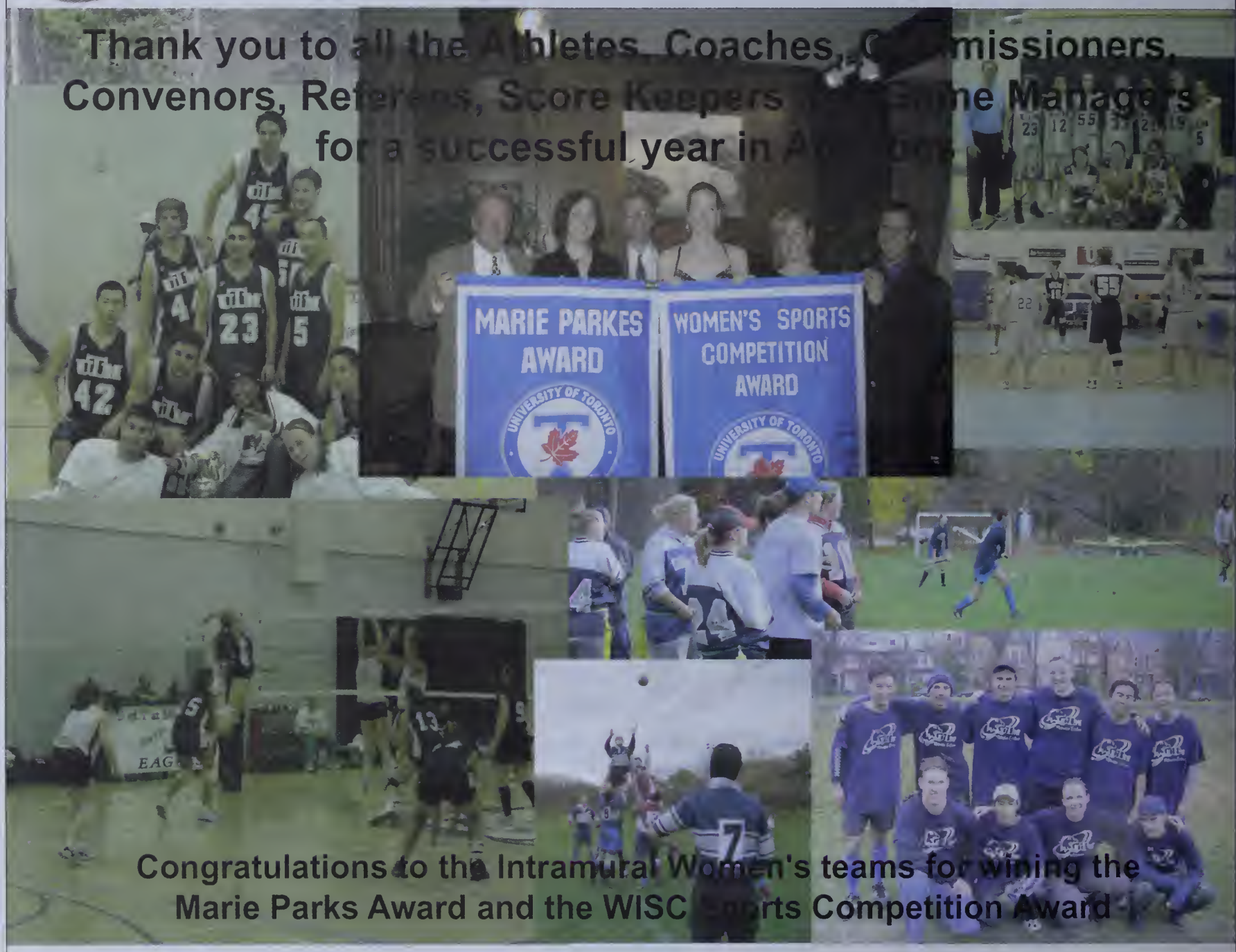
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